

From: Wes
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 9:39am
Subject: Microsoft hearing

January 22, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Pursuant to the Justice Department's request for public comment on the proposed settlement of the Microsoft case, I am writing in support of the settlement.

It is difficult for the average person to understand all of the charges and counter-charges thrown about in a case such as this. Terms such as "restraint of trade" and "predatory pricing practices" have very little meaning to the man on the street. Our concern is whether, after the litigation is over, the public interest was actually served by the lawsuit and its settlement.

The public interest will be well served by this settlement if for no other reason than expanded choice. Microsoft has agreed to allow make it easier for consumers to use non-Microsoft products and programs when using Windows as their operating system. There will now be greater choice for consumers in selecting Internet providers, media players and other programs.

I hope that this settlement will remain intact after the public comment period. Our economy needs these companies out of the courtrooms and back to work as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Wesley T. Charpie